

# AMERICAN WHIPPET CLUB

## National Specialty 2009

By Dr. Todd Miller

**T**he Atlanta Airport Hilton was home to the American Whippet Club's 2009 National Specialty. The performance competition started in lure coursing with nearly 170 Whippets competing in an ASFA trial judged by Sandra Moore and Jeffrey Lipps. A tie-breaker runoff had to be held and eventually Best of Breed was awarded to Open winner Amy, **Wannago's Mia Love On The Run**, owned by Tom and Pam Haig. Congratulations!

Local judge Marlene Burford presided over the obedience and rally trials. There were many qualifying runs with over 50 rally competitors entered. In the obedience trial the Novice B winner **Midori Days de Sud RN** and trainer Irene Mullauer won High in Trial with a 196.5 beating out about 50 other competitors at her very first obedience trial. Midori helped her owner retire the obedience challenge trophies with Irene's third High in Trial performance. Second High in Trial went to **Maverick Cowgirl Chic CDX** and trainer Rachel Amado with a 195 from Open B and High Scoring Non-Regular Class was Veteran winner **Lucy Andrews CD RE** and owner Annie Andrews with a 192.

Triathlon and versatility competitions highlighted those special dogs that can do it all. This year 29 triathletes trained in coursing, obedience, and conformation came together and the ultimate winner was HIT winner, Midori. This was Irene's third triathlon win, allowing her to also retire the triathlon challenge trophies. Fifteen Whippets entered coursing, obedience, conformation, rally, and agility in the versatility competition. Best in Versatility was the Canadian dog, **Can. Ch. Devonair's Mysterious Ellery**, owned and handled by Heather Dansereaux. The conformation class was scored by breeder Chris Durance-Watkins of Cherche'

photos courtesy of Julie Poole



Whippets, who awarded High Triathlon Conformation to **Ch. Carry On Von Dutch SC** and High Versatility Conformation to **DC Krislyn Take It Easy SC**.

The Tuesday futurity competition was judged by longtime Whippet breeder/judge Carolyn Bowers of Surrey Hill. After narrowing her entries down from the 135 entered, Bowers awarded **Abbey's Red Cream Soda** as Best in Futurity from the 14-18 months class. She is owned by Shirley Cooney and Jane Cooney-Waterhouse and proudly bred by Jody Paquette and Jane Cooney-Waterhouse.

The veteran sweepstakes judge, Mari-Beth O'Neill, chose 5 Veterans among the 51 entered to be considered for Best Veteran in Sweepstakes. In an amazing showdown O'Neill awarded Best Veteran in Sweepstakes to the curvy, powerful moving, red brindle and white bitch **Ch. Starline's Sweet Sensation** from the 7-10 years class and Best of Opposite Sex to the handsome, smooth, red and white dog **DC Summit Autumn Gabardine Martin CD** from the 10-12 years class. O'Neill also chose **Ch. Sporting Field's Hot Topic** as Best Stud Dog, **Ch. Starline's Sweet Sensation** as Best Brood Bitch, **Ch. Sporting Field Rock On JC** as Best

Extended Stud Dog, **Ch. Karasar's Reminiscent** as Best Extended Brood Bitch, **Diabliesse Vendome Says Surreyhill** and **Ch. Diabliesse Surrey Hill Say Yaha** as Best Brace, and Charlene Stone's Agstone crew as Best Team. Best Altered Sweepstakes winner, judged by Crystal McNulty of Hycks Hollow Whippets, was **Marial's Shamasan Stonewall** handled by breeder Phoebe Booth.

Swedish judge Magnus Hagstedt enjoyed an entry of 169 males. Hagstedt decisively chose the handsome fawn and white from the 12-18 months class, **Festiva's Been There Done That**, as Winners Dog and the beautiful fawn brindle and white from the Open dog class, **Bretica Man With The Big Cigar**, of Canada as Reserve Winners Dog. Hagstedt sorted over 250 bitches and chose a fawn brindle bitch, **Kamada's Million Dollar Mystery**, as Winners Bitch from the Open bitch class, breeder-owner-handled by Debbie Davenport, co-bred by Kathleen Davenport and co-owned by Deric

Aube. Reserve Winners Bitch was a fawn brindle bitch from the Bred By Exhibitor class, **Mimbres Mandiga**, also breeder-owner-handled by Joe Light.

The always exciting Top 20 competition was judged by a secret slate revealed as the ballroom doors opened. Greeting the crowd



were hound group judge William Cunningham, Whippet breeder Jackie Hubble, and all-breed handler Alvin "Beep" Lee, Jr. After scoring thirteen of America's best Whippets, the winners were announced at the conclusion of the event. The spectator's People's Choice Award went to the stunning, black brindle and white bitch, **BIS SBIS Ch. Tattershall Ticket To Fly**. The coveted Top 20 crystal trophy was presented by Breeder-Judge Jackie Hubble to handler Barbara Wayne for this year's Top 20 Winner, "Luna", the glistening, white beauty known formally as **BIS SBIS Ch. Moongaze Jomyr Some Splainin' Ta Do**.

Breed judging continued on Saturday as Hagstedt narrowed his field down from nearly 150 champions to a select few. **National Specialty Best of Breed** was a smooth and sleek, black and white bitch named **Ch. Snow Hill Calliope JC** breeder-owner-handled by Suzanne Hughes DVM. Of note, young Calli was last year's Best in Futurity recipient. Best of Winners was the dog, **Festiva's Been There Done That**, and Best of Opposite Sex was the fawn brindle and white dog, **Ch. Sporting Field's Rock On JC**, from the Veteran class. Highly considered and winning the Award of Merits were **Ch. Starline's Chanel**, **Ch. Yorktown's Extra Vitamin C JC** (from the Veteran bitch class), **Ch. Sporting Field's Bahama Sands**, **Ch. Seaspell's Point Cabria SC**, **Ch. Ableaim Just Not Anthr Pretty Face SC**, **Ch. Kamada's Instant Millionaire**, **Ch. Shamasan's Flame N Queen RN JC**, **Ch. Snow Hill Onyx at Stoneledge**, **Ch. Sunbeam Rembrandt of Endeavor JC**, and **Ch. Fleetwood's Return To Sendr**. Other top awards were: Best Puppy – **Ableaim Olympic Reign**, Best Veteran – **Ch. Sporting Field's Rock On JC**, and Best Bred By Exhibitor – **Mimbres Mandinga**.

Local Show Chair David Howton and National Show Chair Cindy Scott did an amazing job of organizing this event. The addition of the hilarious first American Whippet Idol competition highlighted performances by our own National Show Chair in drag performing to Abba's *Dancing Queen*; handler Joseph Buchanan playing host Ryan Seacrest; our own breeders imitating Paula, Randy, and Simon; and various other Whippet breeders showing off hidden talents. This year's Idol winner was Kathleen Davenport of Kamada Whippets with her own rendition of *These Boots Were Made For Walkin'*. The entire Whippet fancy is now preparing for next year's event in Tucson, Arizona hoping to garner the coveted Idol trophy, but they will probably settle for a win with their Whippet, too. ■